

southern part of it, and he certainly spends most of his time in the gardens in our own block, where are many fruit trees and probably a greater variety of food than in the park, whose arboreal fauna consists mainly of the soft maples, *Acer dasycarpum*.

That anything of much scientific value has as yet been gained from such individual acquaintance is not claimed and that anything of great value will come is not certain, but what it means to the bird student and bird lover, to have his individual friends return to his ken year after year will be difficult to over-estimate, and the value he will set on such individual acquaintance will probably be far beyond that of any actual gain he may make from the acquaintance, just as we value our human friends, not for what they are, or may be to humanity, but for what their friendship means to us.

Is there a more enticing field opening before us than this one of individual bird acquaintances?

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## SUMMER BIRDS AT LAKE GENEVA, WIS.

BURTIS H. WILSON.

During the summer of 1907 it was my great privilege to spend the two weeks from July 6th to 20th at the Y. M. C. A. encampment at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. This beautiful lake lies near the southern boundary of Wisconsin and about 35 miles west of Lake Michigan. It is an irregular shaped body of water, about 7 miles long from east to west, with a shoreline of about 28 miles. At its widest point it is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles wide. Bordered by high bluffs, the tops of which are rolling, cultivated farm lands, the lake lies much below the level of the surrounding country. There are three small towns along the lake shore, while a great part of the bluffs and shore of the lake are occupied by summer cottages, camps, and improved park lands belonging to country clubs. In some places the bluffs are overgrown with heavy underbrush, but along most of the shore the underbrush has been cleared away,

leaving the open second growth timber surrounding the camps and cottages. A marsh of reeds and rushes borders the lake's inlet at its eastern end and its outlet at the western end, while several smaller marshes occur at various points along the shore. The one at the west end of the lake is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles long and nearly as wide, through which winds a narrow, sluggish stream almost choked in places by the rushes.

Two young men staying at the camp were found to be ardent bird hunters, and together we worked over a part of the shores and bluffs near the camp and a little of the surrounding country where were seen a number of the common field birds which were not seen at all in the immediate vicinity of the lake. Many of the birds were seen feeding young recently out of the nest, while a few nests containing eggs or young were found. All the birds seen probably breed in the vicinity of the lake or in the surrounding country.

On the lake shore near the Y. M. C. A. camp was the electric pumping station for supplying water to the Yerkes Observatory, which is situated on the top of the bluff. A lightning arrester in a wooden box about a foot square was fastened about 18 feet from the ground to the top of a pole carrying the electric wires, and just outside the pumping station. In the side of this box during some previous year a Flicker (probably) had bored a good-sized hole, which a pair of Crested Flycatchers had taken possession of for a home, and during part of my stay were feeding young which grew large enough to leave the nest shortly before my departure from the camp. The pole stood near the lake shore at the intersection of two paths along which hundreds of people passed every day. The birds were very tame, repeatedly carrying food to the young while a number of people were standing watching close by.

About a half mile west of the camp I discovered the nest of another pair, this time in a cavity about 40 feet up in a large hard maple which stood by the boat-landing to one of the large summer cottages. This pair also were feeding young in the nest. A third pair was found at home in the dead top of a large oak on a hill at the west end of the lake, but which

particular cavity of the six or more in the top of this tree was their home I was unable to stay long enough to discover.

Appended is a list of the birds seen during my stay. The most noteworthy feature of this list seems to me to be the entire absence of Chickadees and House Wrens, two birds hard to overlook in any locality. In addition to the birds mentioned one Rail (species unknown) was seen in the marsh at the west end of the lake, a pair of Wild Ducks were seen on the lake near its inlet, and twice a large dark-colored Hawk, resembling the Rough-leg, was seen circling over high in air above the bluffs. Surely the Rough-leg is not a summer resident so far south:

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|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. American Bittern.          | 35. Bronzed Grackle.         |
| 2. Least Bittern.             | 36. Goldfinch.               |
| 3. Gt. Blue Heron.            | 37. Vesper Sparrow.          |
| 4. Little Blue Heron. (?)     | 38. Chipping Sparrow.        |
| 5. Green Heron.               | 39. Field Sparrow.           |
| 6. Black-crowned Night Heron. | 40. Song Sparrow.            |
| 7. Bartramian Sandpiper.      | 41. Swamp Sparrow.           |
| 8. Spotted Sandpiper.         | 42. Towhee.                  |
| 9. Bob-white.                 | 43. Rose-breasted Grosbeak.  |
| 10. Mourning Dove.            | 44. Indigo Bunting.          |
| 11. Red-tailed Hawk.          | 45. Dickcissel.              |
| 12. Sparrow Hawk.             | 46. Scarlet Tanager.         |
| 13. Screech Owl.              | 47. Purple Martin.           |
| 14. Yellow-billed Cuckoo.     | 48. Cliff Swallow.           |
| 15. Belted Kingfisher.        | 49. Barn Swallow.            |
| 16. Hairy Woodpecker.         | 50. Bank Swallow.            |
| 17. Downy Woodpecker.         | 51. Roughed-winged Swallow.  |
| 18. Red-headed Woodpecker.    | 52. Red-eyed Vireo.          |
| 19. Northern Flicker.         | 53. Warbling Vireo.          |
| 20. Nighthawk.                | 54. Blue-winged Warbler.     |
| 21. Chimney Swift.            | 55. Yellow Warbler.          |
| 22. Hummingbird.              | 65. Oven-bird.               |
| 23. Kingbird.                 | 57. Northern Yellow-throat.  |
| 24. Crested Flycatcher.       | 58. Redstart.                |
| 25. Phoebe.                   | 59. Catbird.                 |
| 26. Wood Pewee.               | 60. Brown Thrasher.          |
| 27. Alder Flycatcher.         | 61. Short-billed Marsh Wren. |
| 28. Blue Jay.                 | 62. Long-billed Marsh Wren.  |
| 29. Crow.                     | 63. White-breasted Nuthatch. |
| 30. Cowbird.                  | 64. Tufted Titmouse.         |
| 31. Red-winged Blackbird.     | 65. Wood Thrush.             |
| 32. Meadowlark.               | 66. Robin.                   |
| 33. Orchard Oriole.           | 67. Bluebird.                |
| 34. Baltimore Oriole.         | 68. English Sparrow.         |